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News Summary

A Special Pull-Out Section
EVENTS IN ACADEME
Follows Page A18

Articles on inside pages

A study of "motion mitigation" for art objects may help museums prepare for earthquakes: Page A5.

Critics of Mercer U.'s president say his ambitions for the institution have led to financial retrenchment and emotional turmoil: Page A9.

The president of the U. of Nebraska has been removed: Page A9.

The House passed a bill to freeze spending for student aid and increase financing for other college programs and the N.I.H.: Page A13.

Colleges are hiring companies to operate their bookstores: Page A23.

A summer institute at Indiana U. uses immersion to teach tough East Asian languages: Page A27.

A professor confirmed some of the charges about North Carolina State U.'s basketball program contained in a new book: Page A28.

Students and academics played a key role in a peaceful campaign to desegregate South Africa's hospitals: Page A32.

SECTION 1	Pages A1-36
Athletics	A28-29
Books	A7
Business & Philanthropy	A23-26
Computers	A12
Deaths	A35
Fact File	A16
Gazette	A34
Government & Politics	A13-22
Grants	A26
International	A30-33
Personal & Professional	A9-12
Scholarship	A5-8
Students	A27-28
SECTION 2	**Follows Page C18**
Bulletin Board	B4-39
End Paper	B40
Opinion & Letters	B1-3
SECTION 3	**Follows Page A18**
Athletics Meetings	C31
Coming Events	C7
Deadlines	C32

'Obscenity' Measure Could Bar U.S. Aid to Humanities Groups

Helms provision would also affect Smithsonian, National Gallery

BY CHRISTOPHER MYERS
WASHINGTON

A controversial Senate measure that would place broad restrictions on the kind of work that can be supported by the National Endowment for the Arts applies to the National Endowment for the Humanities as well.

The measure, sponsored by Sen. Jesse Helms and adopted by the Senate last month, would bar the use of federal funds for projects that involve sexual themes or offend certain groups.

A U. of Pennsylvania institute faces a 5-year ban on U.S. funds for its role in sponsoring a controversial show: Page A20.

Senator Helms, a Republican from North Carolina, introduced his amendment in response to two controversial exhibits supported by the arts endowment. Because of those circumstances, many lobbyists believed it applied only to the arts. But the wording of the measure extends its prohibitions to all of the agencies that receive their federal funds in the same bill as the arts endowment—agencies that include the humanities endowment, the Smithsonian Institution, and the National Gallery of Art.

Many Scholars Vow to Fight

Upon learning that they too could be subject to the limitations of the amendment, scholars have reacted with feelings that range from unease to outrage, and many have vowed to fight against the measure's becoming law. They say the amendment raises the possibility that projects in a wide range of non-traditional academic disciplines—women's studies and

Continued on Page A20

China Is Reported About to Postpone All Fulbright Exchanges for a Year to Express Displeasure With U.S.

China Aftershocks

- **600 Chinese students in the U.S. held an unprecedented meeting; reports from China said the government criticized the gathering and called the participants "traitors": Page A30.**
- **Friends of Liu Xiaobo, a jailed Chinese intellectual who lectured in the U.S., fear that he will be executed. They have started a desperate campaign to save him: Page A31.**

Among Beijing's grievances are sanctions, harboring dissident

By LOUISE BRANSON
BEIJING

Chinese authorities have indicated that they will seek a one-year postponement of all academic exchanges between the United States and the People's Republic conducted under the Fulbright program, informed sources said here.

Beijing, a source said, believes it would "not be convenient to have any Fulbright professors" visit China in the coming year. The authorities reportedly cited "changes in the curriculum" and other adjustments now under way at Chinese universities as reasons for a postponement.

A cut-off of exchanges, the source said, would be designed to register official Chinese displeasure with the United States for harboring dissident professor Fang Lizhi and his wife, Li Shuxian, at the U.S. Embassy here, and for the sanctions the United States has levied against China in the wake of the massacre in Tiananmen Square on June 4. The report reflects the uncertainties that have swept through the Chinese academic world since the crushing of the student-led pro-democracy protests and the subsequent hard-line ideological backlash.

USIA Says Negotiations Continue

[In Washington, an official of the United States Information Agency's office for East Asia and Pacific Affairs refused to confirm whether Chinese officials had acted to postpone participation in the Fulbright program. "We're not going to make any announcements until there are some to make. We feel we're still in the process of final negotiations."

[Said another U.S.I.A. official: "It seems nobody officially wants to say the program

Continued on Page A32

Bush Invites Governors to Discuss Education at a National 'Summit'

By SCOTT JASCHIK
CHICAGO

President Bush last week invited the nation's governors to hold a "summit" with him next month on a wide range of education issues. In a speech here to the annual meeting of the National Governors' Association, Mr. Bush said the summit would provide an opportunity "to strengthen our schools, to enlarge opportunities, and to improve our nation's educational performance."

The governors praised the idea of holding in-depth discussions with the President on ways to improve the nation's schools and colleges. But many also expressed skepticism about whether the meeting would accomplish much if President Bush

Continued on Page A14

Lobbying Firm Is Dealt a Withering Blow by Senate Appropriations Chairman

By COLLEEN CORDES
WASHINGTON

The golden luck of Cassidy and Associates, the lobbying firm with legendary success at winning millions of federal dollars for specific campus projects, has finally been tarnished.

The company has come under fire in recent weeks from one of the nation's most powerful politicians: Sen. Robert C. Byrd, the West Virginia Democrat who is chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Senator Byrd has publicly chastised the firm for having "taken in" one of his constituents—West Virginia University, a Cassidy client—and wasting the institution's money. The Senator said he would have gladly fought for, and probably won, the $18-million in federal money the university is seeking for a new science center without any prodding or assistance from outsiders.

Instead, because of the way Cassidy represented the university, Mr. Byrd said he would not support the project—virtually killing its chances in Congress.

A spokesman for the firm defended Cassidy's practices, saying that the company provides appropriate services for the universities it represents.

Mr. Byrd also introduced legislation that

Continued on Page A18

Sen. Robert C. Byrd: "Every Senator in this body ought to be repulsed by the perception that we will dole out the bucks if stroked by the right consultant."

MARGINALIA

Cleaning our desktop this morning—a process not unlike an archaeological dig—we came across, first, an unopened note from a fellow staff member thanking us for a Christmas card we had sent her a few days before and, next, a rich vein of submissions to this column that had come in while we were out of the office for 10 days last winter. Some of the artifacts:

■

Among the sessions at the midwinter meeting of the American Library Association were: "Worst Serials Title Change of the Year Com." and "Fuzzy Match Interest Grp."

■

Headline in a November 1988 issue of the University of Connecticut's *UConn Advance*:

UCONN TO HOUSE MAJOR RESEARCH CENTER FOR GRINDING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

We hope it's big enough for just about everything.

■

Item in a December issue of the *Daily Trojan*, the student newspaper at the University of Southern California:

"Ocean life in the Antarctic is almost twice as abundant as scientists previously thought, according to a study conducted by a university researcher released Monday by the National Science Foundation."

On his own recognizance, we assume.

■

Headline in a November 1988 issue of the Rochester (N.Y.) *Democrat and Chronicle*:

ATHLETES DON'T LIKE ADADEMIA

Neither does that headline writer, a reader speculates.

■

Yet another November 1988 headline, this one from the Illinois Central College *Harbinger*:

STUDENTS NEED CURIOUSITY

And spelling lessons, a correspondent suggests.

■

Also back in December, a reader sent us an instructor-evaluation form used in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Southern Mississippi, on which these entries were the best a teacher could receive in various categories:

"The instructor very often demonstrates a broad understanding of this subject.

"The instructor is very often helpful when students have problems.

"The instructor very often returns graded work in time to benefit the students.

"The instructor's grading is often very fair."

Faint praise! —C.G.

In Brief

Vandals Strike Farm at U. of Illinois

URBANA, ILL.—An outbreak of vandalism at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has researchers wondering what will be the next target.

Gene Oldham, an agronomist and manager of the Agronomy–Plant Pathology Research Farm at the university, said three trucks were stolen from the university's dairy farm last week and driven through fields of corn and soybean experiments. Two days later, vandals set fire to a storage building across from the dairy farm, he said.

Lieut. Krystal Fitzpatrick of the campus police said extra patrols had been added to the area. The police are not sure whether the two incidents are related and they have no suspects, she said.

It will cost the university about $250,000 to rebuild the storage building, which was completely destroyed, Lieutenant Fitzpatrick said. Mr. Oldham said it would cost researchers about $20,000 to repeat their experiments.

Fraternity and Sorority Punished in Alcohol Case

DURHAM, N.H.—The University of New Hampshire has disciplined a sorority and a fraternity for violating university rules governing the use of alcohol.

The action followed a car crash that killed a student while she and five other sorority women were returning from an all-day party at a state park in April.

Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, which sponsored the party, was placed in jeopardy of suspension for five years, and was barred from recruiting or accepting new members for a year, said Michael A. Sciola, Greek adviser in the student-activities office. In addition, he said, no alcohol may be consumed in the fraternity house, and the organization must meet several other conditions.

Alpha Chi Omega sorority was placed in jeopardy of suspension for a semester and put on probation for three years, Mr. Sciola said. The sorority must initiate an alcohol-awareness program for its members.

Bishop College Bid Fails; Woman Forfeits Jewels

DALLAS—A Sri Lankan woman who had hoped to buy bankrupt Bishop College has forfeited the $75,000 worth of jewels she put down as a deposit. Bankruptcy-court officials said her contract to buy the college had been terminated.

The woman, Sujatha Nadarajah, failed to meet a deadline last week for coming up with the funds to buy the college, which had been a historically black institution. The price was $10-million.

Ms. Nadarajah, who lives in Lubbock, Tex., still owes an additional $100,000.

The college was closed last year because of massive debts.

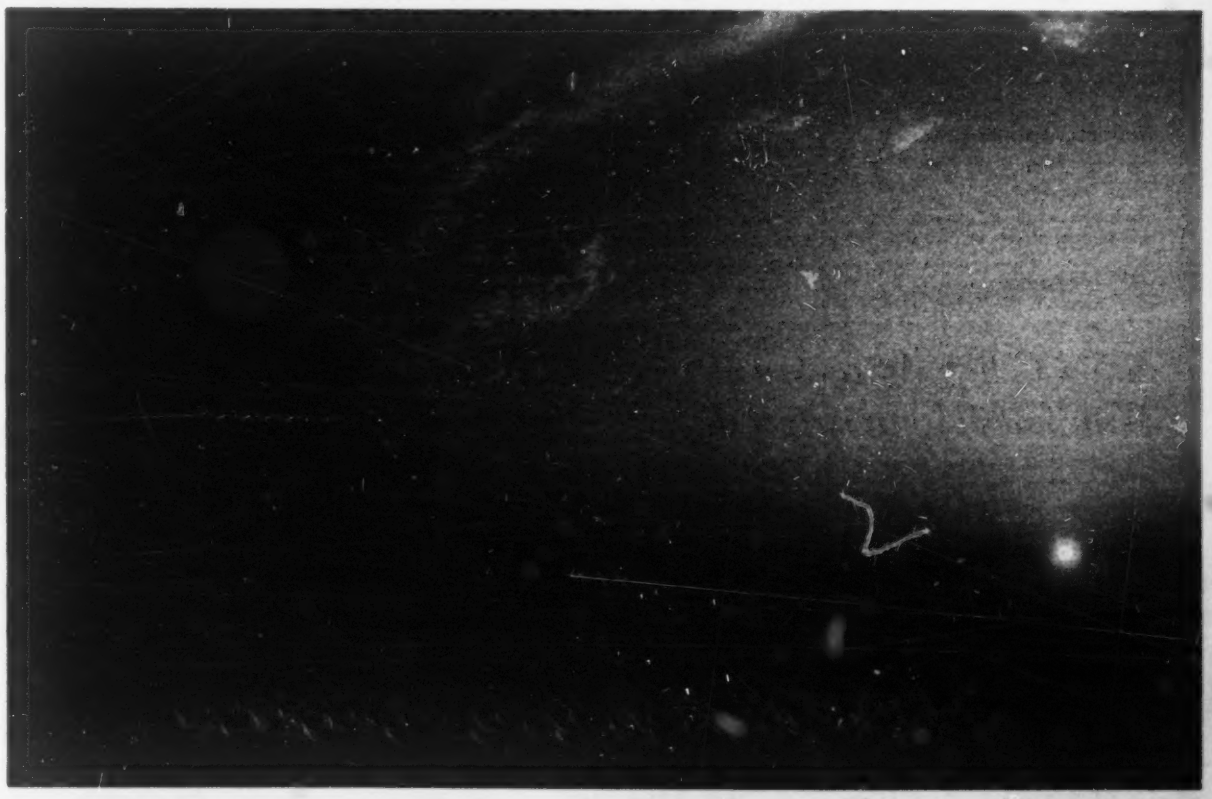
Soviet, American Students to Publish Magazine

MALIBU, CAL.—A group of students from Pepperdine, Stanford, and Moscow State Universities is planning to start the first jointly published American-Soviet campus magazine early next year.

Scott Talcott, a senior at Pepperdine, and Susan McKean, a sophomore at Stanford, plan to travel to Moscow this month for the first editorial meeting of the new quarterly magazine, to be called *Montage*, which will be distributed on college campuses in both the United States and the Soviet Union. Vladimir Tyurienkov, a student at Moscow State University, is the students' Russian partner in the project.

The idea for the magazine grew

NEON LIGHTS FOR THE GREAT BIKE RIDE



CEDAR FALLS, IOWA

When administrators at the University of Northern Iowa were asked to provide overnight shelter for 10,000 people, a light went on in their heads—and it was neon.

The request came from organizers of the Des Moines *Register*'s Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa. What emerged was *Square Wave–Aere Perennius*, the world's largest neon sculpture (*above*).

Square Wave's 144 tent-like structures sprawl across three acres of Northern Iowa's campus. Topped by a computer-controlled neon light, each structure can shelter 10 bike riders.

James White, a professor of sculpture at Arizona State University, created *Square Wave*. Mr. White can mimic familiar rhythms—ranging from heartbeats to breathing—by dimming and brightening the neon, sending waves of light through the matrix.

Square Wave will be slept in only one night, and on display only three days. Northern Iowa hopes to recover its $50,000 cost from grants and souvenir sales.

The bike tour sends riders, such as those (*right*) representing the Des Moines General Hospital, across 479 miles of Iowa in seven days from the Missouri to the Mississippi Rivers.

—THOMAS H. MOORE

PHOTOGRAPH BY BILL WITT, UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

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Government & Politics

Ways & Means

Higher education is becoming an early issue in the 1990 governor's race in Iowa.

Donald D. Avenson, Speaker of the Iowa House of Representatives and a Democratic candidate in the race, recently wrote an opinion piece in the Des Moines *Register* proposing that the state phase out tuition at public colleges and universities in the next four years and double the amount of student aid it provides to students attending private colleges.

Speaker Avenson said the state could afford the plan's $150-million annual price tag and insisted that "the time has come to provide 16 years of free public education."

Eliminating tuition also would help the state's economy, he said, because "education is a highly rated factor in attracting business and industry."

Gov. Terry E. Branstad, a Republican who is expected to seek re-election next year, has ignored the proposal and has declined to comment on it directly.

Governor Branstad's press secretary noted, however, that a similar plan had received a cool reception from the Democrat-controlled General Assembly's education task force.

Others have attacked Mr. Avenson's plan. Scott A. Clark, president of an Iowa management-consulting firm, said: "Whenever politics, particularly a gubernatorial race, gets in the way of realism, we always seem to be inundated with incredible promises."

Mr. Clark said his response was "not political but fiscal." Instead of free tuition, Mr. Clark maintained that the state should concentrate on providing loan guarantees to students and encouraging business development so that Iowa's technical- and professional-school graduates will be able to find employment at home.

■

Former House Speaker Jim Wright may be out of office, but his legacy will live on at Texas Christian University. The Fort Worth institution has obtained the office furniture that Mr. Wright had as Speaker, along with some memorabilia and collected papers from his 34-year career in Washington.

The collection, which will be housed at the Mary Couts Burnett Library, will be invaluable to future scholars, said the library's director of special collections, Roger Rainwater.

He said that even though the Speaker was forced to retire under a cloud of alleged ethics violations, the collection is very significant.

"For this district, Jim Wright was incredibly important," Mr. Rainwater said. "It's unfortunate that he left office the way he did, but he played a vital role during the Reagan Administration."

Plans call for a "Jim Wright room," where the former Speaker's office furniture and memorabilia will be on display.

House Passes Bill to Freeze Student Aid and Increase Financing of Other College Programs and NIH

365-to-58 vote gives big increases for AIDS research and to help disadvantaged schoolchildren

By THOMAS J. DeLOUGHRY

WASHINGTON

The House of Representatives last week voted 365 to 58 in favor of a bill that would effectively freeze spending for student aid and increase financing for other college programs and the National Institutes of Health in the next fiscal year.

The lopsided vote reflected the bipartisan support demonstrated for the bill during debate on the floor of the House. The bill would provide $155.2-billion, beginning October 1, for programs in the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Labor.

Student-aid programs would receive an overall increase of 3.6 per cent, and other higher-education programs would grow by 12.2 per cent. The National Institutes of Health would get 7.5 per cent more than this year and financing for AIDS research would increase by 25 per cent. The annual rate of inflation is 5.2 per cent.

Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle praised Rep. William H. Natcher, Democrat of Kentucky and chairman of the appropriations subcommittee responsible for the bill. They were particularly supportive of the $400-million increase for AIDS research and an additional $1.5-billion to help disadvantaged students at elementary and secondary schools.

A table showing 1989 spending for education and research and the appropriations in the House bill appears on Page A16.

Committee's Levels Pass Unchanged

The appropriations bill was passed without any changes in the spending levels recommended by the appropriations subcommittee.

The decision by Mr. Natcher's panel not to finance a controversial study of sexual habits was not debated in the House. AIDS researchers had favored the survey as a way of finding out more about the prevalence of sexual practices that lead to the spread of the disease, but some members of Congress said it would be inappropriate to use federal funds to study such a topic (*The Chronicle*, August 2).

The freeze on spending for student aid was ordered by Mr. Natcher as a way of sending a message to colleges and schools that they must curb student-loan defaults and cut fraud in other aid programs. Defaults in the Stafford Student Loan Program are expected to cost the federal government $1.9-million in fiscal 1990.

Higher-education lobbyists, angered by the freeze, have vowed to press for increases in aid programs when the Senate considers its appropriations bill next month.

'A Scandalous Problem'

The loan-default issue was discussed during consideration of the bill on the House floor by Rep. Marge Roukema, Republican of New Jersey, who has introduced legislation to cut defaults. "This is a scandalous problem, and it's one that is

Continued on Page A16

New System to Process Financial-Aid Forms Is Announced by the Education Department

WASHINGTON

The Education Department last week announced a new system for processing financial-aid forms in which more companies will be involved than ever before.

The change could lead to decreased costs for students, experts say, as new companies vie for the right to handle financial forms at each institution. At least two of the new companies have offered to process forms at no cost to students—a service that now costs $7 or more.

The system, which is to go into effect for processing forms for the 1990-91 academic year, has been eagerly awaited by financial-aid administrators, who say it must be in place by the time they begin distributing forms to students in December.

All involved concede that the system may cause some initial confusion, primarily because each company will have its own financial-aid form. But Education Department and company officials say any confusion will be cleared up quickly.

The student-aid industry, which processes about six million forms a year, has been dominated for the past 11 years by the College Board's College Scholarship Service and the American College Testing Program.

Illinois and Pennsylvania, citing the need to ask students particular questions to determine eligibility for state scholarships, have devised their own forms and contracted with other companies for processing.

Under the system announced last week, the Education Department awarded new contracts to five companies, each of which will be allowed to offer services on a national basis.

The change was eagerly awaited by financial-aid experts and could lead to lower costs for students as new companies vie for contracts at institutions.

The five include the two companies that have previously dominated the industry; CSX Technology and the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Authority, the companies that to date have operated in Illinois and Pennsylvania, respectively; and United Student Aid Funds, an Indian-

Continued on Page A22

Higher-Education Agencies Urge Crackdown on Trade-School Accrediting Groups

By GOLDIE BLUMENSTYK

ROCKPORT, ME.

Fearing that all colleges are being hurt by the actions of some unscrupulous for-profit trade schools, leaders of state higher-education agencies want the federal government to crack down on the associations that accredit the schools.

The sentiment surfaced as the national organization of the state agencies, the State Higher Education Executives Officers, decided at its annual meeting here last week to take a broader look at the issue of accreditation and licensing of all post-secondary institutions.

The SHEEO members said the attention was necessary because of the proliferation of for-profit trade schools and the growing practice by non-profit institutions of establishing far-flung branch and "storefront campuses," and courses through telecommunications. Those developments have created an environment in which students can no longer rely on an institution's accreditation as an assurance of quality at all of its locations, state officials said.

Alarmed by Findings

Members said they were also alarmed by the findings in a series of federal and state reports that most of the defaults on federally guaranteed loans were taking place at for-profit institutions, also known as proprietary schools. In addition, they said they were worried by reports that some of those institutions were enrolling needy students so that they could receive the students' federal-aid money for tuition, but were not providing them with suitable academic programs.

"None of us likes the concept of people ripping off aid for needy people," said Norma Foreman Glasgow, commissioner of higher education in Connecticut.

James R. Mingle, SHEEO's executive director, said the publicity also appears to be having an effect on Congress, where the House of Representatives just voted to freeze spending on student aid for the 1990 budget year.

The problems of proprietary schools and high default rates are "poisoning the well for all of higher education," he said.

Several of the state-agency leaders said they believed the default rate could be reduced and less student-aid money wasted if the Department of Education would more closely monitor the agencies whose accreditation determines which institu-

Continued on Page A15

Education and Research Money in House Appropriations Bill

In the Department of Education

	Fiscal 1989 Actual spending	Fiscal 1990 President's request	Fiscal 1990 Approved by House
Student assistance			
Pell Grants	$4,483,915,000	$4,740,000,000	$4,740,000,000
Supplemental Grants	437,972,000	452,863,000	452,863,000
College Work-Study	610,097,000	610,097,000	610,097,000
Income-contingent loans	4,940,000	20,000,000	10,000,000
State Student Incentive Grants	71,889,000	0	50,000,000
Perkins Loans	205,507,000	22,000,000	159,000,000
Stafford Student Loans*	4,066,852,000	3,192,234,000	3,651,000,000
Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarships	15,235,000	0	14,235,000
Graduate support			
Patricia Roberts Harris Graduate Fellowships	15,711,000	16,245,000	16,245,000
Jacob K. Javits Fellowships	7,904,000	5,770,000	6,770,000
Patricia Roberts Harris Public-Service Fellowships	3,320,000	0	3,320,000
Minority Participation Graduate Fellowships	3,476,000	3,594,000	3,594,000
Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need	12,844,000	11,945,000	17,000,000
Institutional assistance			
Cooperative education	13,622,000	0	13,622,000
Developing institutions			
Aid for historically black colleges	73,554,000	76,055,000	85,000,000
Institutional support	77,459,000	80,093,000	83,000,000
Endowment Challenge Grants	12,696,000	13,128,000	23,128,000
Facilities			
College-housing and academic-facilities loans and construction insurance	31,315,000	5,129,000	35,129,000
Interest-subsidy grants	22,744,000	22,744,000	22,744,000
International education	31,058,000	30,317,000	40,317,000
Law School Clinical Experience	3,952,000	0	5,000,000
Veterans' Education Outreach	2,838,000	0	2,838,000
Bilingual education			
Bilingual vocational training	3,771,000	0	3,900,000
Training grants	30,413,000	30,413,000	32,413,000

	Fiscal 1989 Actual spending	Fiscal 1990 President's request	Fiscal 1990 Approved by House
Library resources			
Research libraries	$5,675,000	$5,675,000	$5,675,000
Training and demonstration	709,000	709,000	709,000
College library technology grants	3,651,000	3,651,000	3,651,000
Aid to disadvantaged			
College-aid migrant programs	1,482,000	1,482,000	1,482,000
Legal Training for the Disadvantaged	1,892,000	1,956,000	2,500,000
Minority Institutions Science Improvement	5,307,000	5,487,000	5,487,000
Programs for disadvantaged students	219,257,000	228,168,000	248,168,000
Education research and statistics			
Education research	47,079,000	50,960,000	57,010,000
Education statistics	31,122,000	37,370,000	38,320,000
Education for the handicapped			
National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research	53,525,000	52,883,000	52,883,000
Research and development	17,026,000	17,026,000	17,026,000
Personnel development	67,095,000	67,095,000	67,095,000
Rehabilitation training	30,500,000	30,134,000	30,134,000
Postsecondary programs	5,770,000	5,770,000	5,770,000
Miscellaneous			
Adult education	162,210,000	172,665,000	208,796,000
Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education	11,856,000	11,856,000	11,856,000
Office for Civil Rights	41,635,000	45,178,000	45,178,000
Teacher training	151,434,000	155,347,000	113,346,000
Vocational education grants	831,566,000	0	860,000,000
Women's educational equity	2,949,000	0	2,949,000
School, College and University Partnerships	2,760,000	2,854,000	2,854,000

In the Department of Health and Human Services

	Fiscal 1989 Actual spending	Fiscal 1990 President's request	Fiscal 1990 Approved by House
Scientific research			
National Institutes of Health			
Cancer Institute	$1,570,943,000	$1,646,073,000	$1,652,666,000
Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute	1,045,732,000	1,082,497,000	1,090,930,000
Institute of Dental Research	130,834,000	135,796,000	138,053,000
Institute of Diabetes, Digestive, and Kidney Diseases	559,648,000	582,629,000	590,276,000
Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke and Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders	567,179,000	593,404,000	595,155,000
Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases	742,277,000	842,712,000	845,523,000
Institute of General Medical Sciences	654,664,000	682,249,000	692,639,000
Institute of Child Health and Human Development	425,532,000	444,193,000	448,493,000
Eye Institute	231,292,000	239,474,000	240,636,000
Institute of Environmental Health Sciences	223,695,000	230,848,000	232,479,000
Institute of Arthritis, Musculoskeletal, and Skin Diseases	160,015,000	168,588,000	171,673,000

	Fiscal 1989 Actual spending	Fiscal 1990 President's request	Fiscal 1990 Approved by House
National Institutes of Health, continued			
Institute on Aging	$222,845,000	$230,490,000	$241,528,000
Research Resources	358,332,000	307,956,000	356,128,000
Center for Nursing Research	29,132,000	30,969,000	32,969,000
International Center	14,002,000	15,532,000	15,579,000
Library of Medicine	74,413,000	78,729,000	83,311,000
Total N.I.H.	7,144,819,000	7,529,397,000	7,678,625,000
Health research and training			
Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration Mental health research and research training	354,464,000	389,110,000	389,110,000
Centers for Disease Control Occupational safety and health research and training	70,355,000	70,355,000	73,900,000

* Formerly called Guaranteed Student Loans

House Votes 365 to 58 to Freeze Student Aid and Increase Financing of Other Programs

Continued from Page A13

growing, and I think it's one we ought to be paying attention to as we're appropriating this money," she said.

"We've got to have legislation next year that goes to the heart of this problem, that stops the scandal and recoups those moneys that are in default for those students who are truly deserving," said Ms. Roukema, a member of the House Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education.

"Too many students are going without proper education, the government is being bilked, and taxes are being lost not only in the proprietary-school area but also in the general student-loan program," she said.

Among those speaking against the spending bill was Rep. William E. Dannemeyer, Republican of California, who expressed concern about increasing spending by $13-billion over this year's level at a time when the federal budget deficit is so large.

"This type of appropriation is leading the nation to bankruptcy," Mr. Dannemeyer said. "It does not express a sense of any recognition of the fact that this year we're adding $261-billion to the debt of the United States government."

Drug-Free Campuses

The lone amendment attached to the spending bill was sponsored by Rep. E. Clay Shaw, Republican of Florida. The amendment states that "colleges and universities should demand drug-free campuses and should, with the support of students, parents, and communities, enforce strict but fair policies to eliminate drug use by students."

"It is too seldom that the universities and colleges of our country have an actual stated policy that is made known to the student body," Mr. Shaw said.

Several members of Congress spoke on the floor in support of the bill, singling out the large increase in spending for AIDS research for particular praise.

Rep. Henry A. Waxman, Democrat of California, was one of several representatives who worried that the failure to earmark research funds especially for AIDS could allow the funds to be used for other research.

Mr. Natcher, the subcommittee chairman, defended his panel's action, saying that the members were committed to fighting the epidemic. The change, he said, "merely suggests the committee's view that AIDS funding should go through the same quality control and peer review as non-AIDS funds."

House Committee Approves $345-Million More Than Bush Asked for Pentagon Research Funds

WASHINGTON

The House Appropriations Committee last week approved a Defense Department spending bill that includes a $345-million increase over the Bush Administration's request for basic and applied research.

The panel approved a total of $3.6-billion for university-related research and matched the Administration's request for the University Research Initiative, keeping it at $96-million, about the same as last year.

The bill was scheduled to go to the full House for consideration late last week.

The increase for research was made in "a single lump sum in order to allow the Defense Department maximum flexibility in allocating funds to the highest research priorities," the panel said in the report accompanying the bill.

The committee also directed the department to improve the geographical diversity of institutions receiving research grants. It noted that the five states that now receive the most money in federal research support get more than 50 per cent of all federal grant money, while the bottom 16 and Puerto Rico together receive less than 2 per cent of all grant funds.

The panel requested that the department submit a report by January 1 on the current geographic breakdown of colleges and universities receiving grants, as well as on ways in which the department and other federal agencies that conduct research could cooperate with states to broaden the distribution of federal research money. —C.M.